

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Dec. 21, 2022

Public consultation for Andrewsville Bridge extended to Feb. 24

The public consultation period that forms part of the process to determine the preferred option for the future of the Andrewsville Bridge has been extended to Feb. 24, 2023.

The consultation is in the form of a virtual Public Consultation Centre (PCC) and is part of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process that began in April. The EA completion is expected the week of Jan. 23, 2023, and the project file will be available for the public to review for a mandatory 30-day period until Feb. 24, when public comments will also close.

The bridge is located at the hamlet of Andrewsville in Montague Township and spans the Rideau River, providing access to the Parks Canada swing bridge that crosses the Rideau Canal at Nicholson's Locks. It is more than 100 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. Lanark County and the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (UCLG) share jurisdiction for the bridge, which has had a 5-tonne load limit since 1952 and is used by fewer than 200 vehicles per day. Since 2018 it has closed to traffic each year from Dec. 1 to March 31 to eliminate further corrosion from de-icing materials. The latest inspection report recommended closing the bridge within five years and completing the EA study to investigate further options.

"After review of comments provided by the public in advance of the initial Dec. 2 deadline, the counties decided to make more documents available that support construction estimates and the various options, and to give the public more time to provide input," explained Sean Derouin, Lanark County Public Works manager.

The bridge's age, condition, posted weight restriction, seasonal operation and potential cultural heritage value are all considerations in the review. Consultation is a requirement in the Class EA process, as well as an evaluation of alternatives, potential impacts and identification of ways to mitigate adverse impacts.

The public can view the virtual PCC at www.lanarkcounty.ca/andrewsvillebridge and address comments to andrewsvillebridge@lanarkcounty.ca by Feb. 24. Anyone who does not have computer access can contact the county at 613-267-1353 for hard copies.

– 30 –

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